

REMARKS/COMMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 22 are now active in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the inhibitor of neutral endopeptidase embodiment from the claims, in order to make the dependent claims more correct and to simplify the claim for appeal. Claim 22 has been amended to correct a spelling error and place the claim in better condition for appeal. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Their entry prior to appeal is respectfully requested.

Applicants' representative would like to thank Examiner Weber for the brief and helpful discussion of this case on November 13, 2003. At that time, Applicants' representative indicated that Applicants would submit an Appeal Brief and the present amendment to the claims, as well as a Rule 1.132 Declaration. Entry of the amendment and Rule 1.132 Declaration are respectfully requested, as the amendments place the claims in better condition for appeal and the Rule 1.132 Declaration merely places into declaration form information that has already been indicated to the Examiner in the previous responses, and acknowledged by the Examiner in the Advisory Action, namely that Compound 1 of the present application examples meets the limitations of the present claim in having inhibitory activity towards elastase-like enzymes, while not having MMP inhibitory activity.

Applicants submit that upon entry of the present amendment, Declaration, and Appeal Brief, and consideration of the arguments therein, the application is in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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